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BY DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN WAS RELUCTANT TO HEAD THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING JOHN F. KENNEDY'S DEATH BUT ONCE HE DID, OPERATED UNDER A SHADOW OF SUSPICION BY FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, NEWLY RELEASED DOCUMENTS SHOWED WEDNESDAY.

HOOVER WAS ANGERED BY WARREN'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY FBI REPORT ON THE SLAYING AS BEING "IN SKELETON FORM" AND SUSPECTED THE CHIEF JUSTICE WAS LEAKING ITS CONTENTS TO THE MEDIA.

THE DIRECTOR ALSO ARRANGED FOR HIS OWN LEAK ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES THROUGH THEN-REP. GERALD FORD, ACCORDING TO THE RAW FBI FILES RELEASED WEDNESDAY UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

AN FBI MEMO, DATED NOV. 29, 1963, REPORTED ATTORNEY GENERAL NICHOLAS KATZENBACH HAD INFORMED THE FBI THAT "THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS DECLINED THE COMMISSION."

BUT WARREN CHANGED HIS MIND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSION OF SEVEN PUBLIC SERVANTS WAS ANNOUNCED ON NOV. 29, SIX DAYS AFTER KENNEDY WAS SLAIN IN DALLAS.

THE DOCUMENTS GAVE NO INDICATION WHY WARREN WAS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT, BUT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES HISTORICALLY HAVE AVOIDED TAKING OTHER ASSIGNMENTS IN THE GOVERMENT.

FROM THE BEGINNING, HOOVER SIGNALED HIS ANTIPATHY TO WARREN.

HE BLOCKED WARREN'S CHOICE OF WARREN OLNEY -- WHOM HOOVER DESCRIBED AS "HORRIBLE" -- AS CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE COMMISSION AND THE JOB WENT TO J. LEE RANKIN, THE FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL.

WHEN THE AGENCY DELIVERED ITS FIRST REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON THE KENNEDY MURDER, WARREN DESCRIBED THEM AS BEING IN "SKELETON FORM."

AN ANGRY HOOVER NOTED "CERTAINLY A STATEMENT NOT BEFITTING A CHIEF JUSTICE."

WHEN WARREN REPEATED THE DESCRIPTION ON JAN. 8, 1964, HOOVER NOTED ON A MEMO "CERTAINLY A NEEDLESSLY DIRTY DIG BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE."

HOOVER ALSO REFUSED WARREN'S INVITATION TO ATTEND THE FIRST COMMISSION MEETING DEC. 3 ABOUT THE FBI'S PRELIMINARY REPORT BECAUSE THE REPORT "SPOKE FOR ITSELF."

SHORTLY AFTER THE COMMISSION WENT TO WORK, FORD COMPLAINED CONFIDENTIALLY TO HOOVER AIDE CARTHA D. DELOACH OF THE WAY WARREN WAS TRYING TO RUN IT. DELOACH TOLD HOOVER THE CONGRESSMAN PROMISED TO "KEEP ME THOROUGHLY ADVISED AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION ... ONHA CONFIDENTIAL BASIS."

HOOVER NOTED "WELL HANDLED".

HOWEVER HOOVER DID ALERT WASHINGTON FBI AGENTS TO WATCH OUT FOR ANY INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE THREATS TO WARREN'S SECURITY AFTER RANKIN SUGGESTED "THERE WERE PROBABLY AS MANY PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY THAT WOULD LIKE TO SEE PHYSICAL HARM COME TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE" AS TO THE PRESIDENT.

FORD REPORTED TO DELOACH ON DEC. 19, 1963, THE COMMISSION HAD DISCUSSED LEAKS OF THE FBI REPORT.

DELOACH SAID HE THEN MENTIONED TO FORD THAT WARREN "WAS QUITE CLOSE TO (COLUMNIST) DREW PEARSON AND OBVIOUSLY USED PEARSON FROM TIME TO TIME TO GET THOUGHTS ACROSS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ..."

ON JAN. 8, 1964, HOOVER WAS SHOWN A WASHINGTON POST NEWS CLIPPING SAYING THE WARREN COMMISION HAD RECEIVED "THOUSANDS" OF PAGES OF RAW DATA FROM THE FBI.

"LOOKS LIKE WARREN IS STILL 'LEAKING,'" HOOVER SCRIBBLED NEXT TO THE CLIP.

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